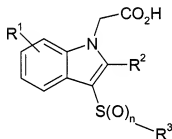


Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:



(I)

in which:

n represents 1 or 2;

R<sup>1</sup> is one or more substituents independently selected from halogen, CN, nitro, SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>4</sup>, OR<sup>4</sup>, SR<sup>4</sup>, SOR<sup>4</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>5</sup>R<sup>6</sup>, CONR<sup>5</sup>R<sup>6</sup>, NR<sup>5</sup>R<sup>6</sup>, NR<sup>9</sup>SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>4</sup>, NR<sup>9</sup>CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>4</sup>, NR<sup>9</sup>COR<sup>4</sup>, aryl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkenyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkynyl or C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, the latter five groups being optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen, OR<sup>7</sup> and NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, S(O)<sub>x</sub>R<sup>7</sup> where x is 0, 1 or 2;

R<sup>2</sup> is hydrogen, halogen, CN, SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>4</sup> or CONR<sup>5</sup>R<sup>6</sup>, COR<sup>4</sup> or C<sub>1-7</sub>alkyl, the latter group being optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen atoms, OR<sup>8</sup> and NR<sup>5</sup>R<sup>6</sup>, S(O)<sub>x</sub>R<sup>7</sup> where x is 0, 1 or 2;

R<sup>3</sup> is aryl or a 5-6 membered aromatic ring containing one or more heteroatoms selected from N, S and O, each of which is optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen, CN, nitro, SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>4</sup>, OH, OR<sup>4</sup>, SR<sup>4</sup>, SOR<sup>4</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>5</sup>R<sup>6</sup>, CONR<sup>5</sup>R<sup>6</sup>, NR<sup>5</sup>R<sup>6</sup>, NR<sup>9</sup>SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>4</sup>, NR<sup>9</sup>CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>4</sup>, NR<sup>9</sup>COR<sup>4</sup>, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkenyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkynyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl, the latter three groups being optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen atoms, OR<sup>7</sup> and NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, S(O)<sub>x</sub>R<sup>7</sup> where x is 0, 1 or 2;

R<sup>4</sup> represents aryl, heteroaryl, or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl, all of which may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen atoms, aryl, heteroaryl, OR<sup>10</sup> and NR<sup>11</sup>R<sup>12</sup> S(O)<sub>x</sub>R<sup>13</sup> (where x = 0, 1 or 2), CONR<sup>14</sup>R<sup>15</sup>, NR<sup>14</sup>COR<sup>15</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>14</sup>R<sup>15</sup>, NR<sup>14</sup>SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>15</sup>, CN, nitro;

R<sup>5</sup> and R<sup>6</sup> independently represent a hydrogen atom, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl group, or an aryl group, the latter two of which may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen atoms, aryl, OR<sup>13</sup> and NR<sup>14</sup>R<sup>15</sup>, CONR<sup>14</sup>R<sup>15</sup>, NR<sup>14</sup>COR<sup>15</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>14</sup>R<sup>15</sup>, NR<sup>14</sup>SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>15</sup>, CN, nitro;

or

R<sup>5</sup> and R<sup>6</sup> together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached can form a 3-8 membered saturated heterocyclic ring optionally containing one or more atoms selected from O, S(O)<sub>x</sub> where x is 0, 1 or 2, NR<sup>16</sup>, and the ring itself optionally substituted by C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>3</sub> alkyl;

R<sup>7</sup> and R<sup>13</sup> independently represent a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl group, or an aryl or group all of which may be optionally substituted by halogen atoms;

R<sup>8</sup> represents a hydrogen atom, C(O)R<sup>9</sup>, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl (optionally substituted by halogen atoms, or an aryl group, which may also be optionally substituted by one or more fluorine atoms); or an aryl group, which may be optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms;

each of R<sup>9</sup>, R<sup>10</sup>, R<sup>11</sup>, R<sup>12</sup>, R<sup>14</sup>, R<sup>15</sup>, independently represents a hydrogen atom, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl, or an aryl group (all of which may be optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms); and

R<sup>16</sup> is hydrogen, C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl, -C(O)C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl, C(O)YC<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, Y is O or NR<sup>7</sup>.

~~or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof.~~

2. (Original) A compound according to claim 1 in which n is 2.
3. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 1 in which R<sup>1</sup> is halogen, nitrile, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl or SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>4</sup>, NO<sub>2</sub>, NR<sup>9</sup>COR<sup>4</sup>, NR<sup>9</sup>SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>4</sup>, aryl, NR<sup>5</sup>R<sup>6</sup>.
4. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 1 in which the R<sup>1</sup> substituent(s) is/are in the 4- and/or 5- position.
5. (Previously presented) A compound according claim 1 in which R<sup>2</sup> is C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl.
6. (Original) A compound according to claim 4 in which R<sup>3</sup> is phenyl substituted by halogen.
7. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 1 selected from:  
3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indol-1-acetic acid;  
5-chloro-3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;  
6-chloro-3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;  
7-chloro-3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;  
5-chloro-3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-4-cyano-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;  
5-chloro-3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-6-cyano-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;  
3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;  
3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-4-(ethylsulfonyl)-7-methoxy-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;  
3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-5-cyano-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;  
3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-5-cyano-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;  
5-chloro-3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid,  
4-chloro-3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;  
3-[(4-methoxyphenyl)sulfonyl]-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indol-1-acetic acid;  
3-[(3-methoxyphenyl)sulfonyl]-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indol-1-acetic acid;

3-[(2-Chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indol-1-acetic acid;  
3-[(3-Chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indol-1-acetic acid;  
3-[(4-Cyanophenyl)sulfonyl]-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;  
3-[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]-2,5-Dimethyl-1*H*-indol-1-acetic acid;  
3-[(2-ethylphenyl)sulfonyl]-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indol-1-acetic acid;  
3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-2-methyl-4-nitro-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;  
4-(Acetylamino)-3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;  
3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-2-methyl-4-[(methylsulfonyl)amino]- 1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;  
3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-4-(ethylamino)-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;  
3-[(2,6-Dichlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;  
3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-2-methyl-4-phenyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid  
3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-5-fluoro-2-methyl- 1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid,  
3-[(3-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-5-fluoro-2-methyl- 1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid, and  
5-fluoro-2-methyl-3-[[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]sulfonyl]- 1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid,  
or a and pharmaceutically acceptable salt salts thereof.

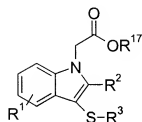
8-9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously presented) A method of treating asthma or rhinitis, the method comprising administering to a patient a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt as defined in claim 1.

11-13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously Presented) A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (I) of claim 1 which comprises:

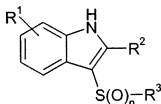
(a) oxidation of a compound of formula (II):



(II)

in which R<sup>17</sup> is hydrogen or alkyl and R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are as defined in claim 1, or

(b) reaction of a compound of formula (III):



(III)

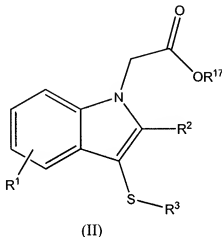
in which R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are as defined in claim 1, with a compound of formula (IV):



where R<sup>18</sup> is an alkyl group and L is a leaving group in the presence of a base, and optionally thereafter (a) or (b) in any order:

- hydrolysing the ester group R<sup>17</sup> or R<sup>18</sup> to the corresponding acid
- removing any protecting group
- forming a pharmaceutically acceptable salt.

15. (New) A compound of formula (II) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:



wherein:

R<sup>17</sup> is hydrogen or alkyl;

R<sup>1</sup> is one or more substituents independently selected from halogen, CN, nitro, SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>4</sup>, OR<sup>4</sup>, SR<sup>4</sup>, SOR<sup>4</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>5</sup>R<sup>6</sup>, CONR<sup>5</sup>R<sup>6</sup>, NR<sup>5</sup>R<sup>6</sup>, NR<sup>9</sup>SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>4</sup>, NR<sup>9</sup>CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>4</sup>, NR<sup>9</sup>COR<sup>4</sup>, aryl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkenyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkynyl or C<sub>1</sub>-6alkyl, the latter five groups being optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen, OR<sup>7</sup> and NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, S(O)<sub>x</sub>R<sup>7</sup> where x is 0, 1 or 2;

R<sup>2</sup> is hydrogen, halogen, CN, SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>4</sup> or CONR<sup>5</sup>R<sup>6</sup>, COR<sup>4</sup> or C<sub>1-7</sub>alkyl, the latter group being optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen atoms, OR<sup>8</sup> and NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, S(O)<sub>x</sub>R<sup>7</sup> where x is 0, 1 or 2;

R<sup>3</sup> is aryl or a 5-6 membered aromatic ring containing one or more heteroatoms selected from N, S and O, each of which is optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen, CN, nitro, SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>4</sup>, OH, OR<sup>4</sup>, SR<sup>4</sup>, SOR<sup>4</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>5</sup>R<sup>6</sup>, CONR<sup>5</sup>R<sup>6</sup>, NR<sup>5</sup>R<sup>6</sup>, NR<sup>9</sup>SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>4</sup>, NR<sup>9</sup>CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>4</sup>, NR<sup>9</sup>COR<sup>4</sup>, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkenyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkynyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl, the latter three groups being optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen atoms, OR<sup>7</sup> and NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, S(O)<sub>x</sub>R<sup>7</sup> where x is 0, 1 or 2;

R<sup>4</sup> represents aryl, heteroaryl, or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl, all of which may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen atoms, aryl, heteroaryl, OR<sup>10</sup> and NR<sup>11</sup>R<sup>12</sup> S(O)<sub>x</sub>R<sup>13</sup> (where x = 0, 1 or 2), CONR<sup>14</sup>R<sup>15</sup>, NR<sup>14</sup>COR<sup>15</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>14</sup>R<sup>15</sup>, NR<sup>14</sup>SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>15</sup>, CN, nitro;

R<sup>5</sup> and R<sup>6</sup> independently represent a hydrogen atom, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl group, or an aryl group, the latter two of which may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen atoms, aryl, OR<sup>13</sup> and NR<sup>14</sup>R<sup>15</sup>, CONR<sup>14</sup>R<sup>15</sup>, NR<sup>14</sup>COR<sup>15</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>14</sup>R<sup>15</sup>, NR<sup>14</sup>SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>15</sup>, CN, nitro;

or

R<sup>5</sup> and R<sup>6</sup> together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached can form a 3-8 membered saturated heterocyclic ring optionally containing one or more atoms selected from O, S(O)<sub>x</sub> where x is 0, 1 or 2, NR<sup>16</sup>, and the ring itself optionally substituted by C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>3</sub> alkyl;

R<sup>7</sup> and R<sup>13</sup> independently represent a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl group, or an aryl or group all of which may be optionally substituted by halogen atoms;

R<sup>8</sup> represents a hydrogen atom, C(O)R<sup>9</sup>, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl (optionally substituted by halogen atoms, or an aryl group, which may also be optionally substituted by one or more fluorine atoms); or an aryl group, which may be optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms;

each of R<sup>9</sup>, R<sup>10</sup>, R<sup>11</sup>, R<sup>12</sup>, R<sup>14</sup>, R<sup>15</sup>, independently represents a hydrogen atom, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl, or an aryl group (all of which may be optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms); and

R<sup>16</sup> is hydrogen, C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl, -C(O)C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, C(O)YC<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl, Y is O or NR<sup>7</sup>.